**CURRICULUM COMMITTEE**

February 11, 2011

Present: Acklin, Cedar Face, Dungan, Levin, Pittman, Smith, Armstrong, Walsh, Thorpe

Guests: Charles Lane, Jody Waters, Jon Lange

The meeting began at 2:00 p.m. The minutes from the February 4 meeting were accepted.

Environmental Studies

Charles Lane was introduced to the committee. Lane explained changes to the ES capstone course, ES 494, to split into ES 494A, 494B, and 494C, with separate descriptions, to spread the capstone out over three terms. Credits for total capstone increase from 4 credits to 6 credits.

G120 (Volcanoes and Earthquakes) increases from 3 cr to 4cr. and will be modified slightly. The committee asked general questions about the proposed changes. Pittman/Dungan moved to approve all ES changes: the motion passed 5Y/0N/0A. (Lane departed the meeting.)

Education

A revised, shorter course description for ED 437 (Science and the Young Child) was submitted. Levin/CF moved to approve ED 437 as revised; the motion passed 5Y/0N/0A.

Communication

Jody Waters and Jon Lange were introduced. COMM 456/556 (Negotiation) is a new course, formerly taught as a COMM 460 topic. It is similar to the former course but students will not need a prerequisite of COMM 30. Students will write a paper and make a presentation.

Lange provided information about the proposed minor in Conflict Resolution. The minor will be a useful focus at SOU. The department hopes to develop a certificate in Conflict Resolution next year. The minor is smaller and more focused than the certificate will be.

New course COMM 355 (Culture and Conflict) also was created for this minor. Cedar Face asked if it should it be cross-listed with International Studies? Waters will check with SSPC/IS. This will be an intermediate-level culture class, and a career area for some students.

The new minor is 24 credits; will this expand? Lange said this is an emerging program, and facilitation and collaboration would be good additions. (Lange departed the meeting.)

The committee asked questions about other specific catalog changes. Waters will send modified course descriptions for JRN 377A and JRN 377B.

Changes to concentrations in communication major: change titles of degree concentrations and change program descriptions. Diplomas and transcripts can only have one sub-level, so the four new concentrations will be adjusted. Catalog copy will reflect what exists in the field. No real changes in the major, but changes in the way we talk about it. The concentrations will be Human Communication, Journalism, Photojournalism, and Video Production. We won’t use News-Editorial or Convergent Media as concentration names. The department will clarify changes for the Human Communication minor.

For the Film Studies minor: what happened to student fees to buy things for the library? Money has not been spent and there is still money available. The Communication department wants to build the film library; a new faculty member for film will be hired. Curriculum Committee recommended Noel Koran and Jody Waters discuss collaboration, since Performing Arts will have the Film Techniques minor and resources could be shared.

Pittman/ Levin moved to approve Communication catalog changes except changes to Human Communication minor (pending clarification of changes); the motion passed 5Y/0N/0A. (Waters departed the meeting.)

Film Techniques minor

The committee discussed the revisions to this proposal. Dungan/Pittman moved to accept the revised Film Techniques minor proposal; the motion passed 5Y0N/0A.

American Sign Language issue

Walsh reported that at today’s University Studies meeting there was a discussion about the place of American Sign Language as a foreign language. This is being taught through our Foreign Languages program using the FL prefix. Some people think ASL meets our second language requirement for the BA degree, but we are not sure this is correct; do we need to research what is being done? Other questions: Does the foreign language program want to submit the ASL courses as official new courses? Does ASL count as a foreign language for the BA degree? We need to send questions to Scott Rex and remind him there are no ASL hard-numbered courses in effect.

Honors program

The catalog section for Honors program will be discussed next week. We will ask Prakash Chenjeri to discuss H sections and Honors in the major.

Catalog process update

Acklin said we need to communicate early to Deans and Dept chairs what the catalog process will be for next year, and give an update on the process this year.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.